

FOCAL POINT

Insight about your local government

In Texas, cities are either general law or home rule. General law cities, as the name implies, operate under the laws the State of Texas has created and can only make decisions for their community under those laws. General Law cities typically have a population of at least 5,000. Once a city reaches a population of 5,000, cities may opt to become a home-rule city by creating a charter and having an election. Home-rule cities make their own laws, called ordinances, and the charter they approved dictates the way they operate. Such things as the number of council members, whether they have districts or term limits, mayor/council or council/manager forms of government are all spelled out in the charter.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, I have two reasons this is my topic this month. First, my hope is you will be interested enough to consider learning more about our government by signing up for our free programs, such as City Hall 101, citizens police academy, citizens fire academy, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) or CPR and first aid classes. Secondly, I hope you will follow the upcoming council elections and vote!

In Frisco, our citizen approved charter allows for six at-large council seats. Council members serve for three year terms and can serve a maximum of two terms. Our terms expire on staggered years and every year, two council seats are up for election. What is interesting this year, as has been the case the last two years, is two current seats up for election are held by council members

See **mayor**, next page



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

MAYOR MAHER MASO

City of Frisco, Sports Village Holdings, LLC team up for Fieldhouse USA project

DANA BAIRD

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
& MEDIA RELATIONS

The latest City of Frisco public-private partnership scores another 'first' with the opening of Fieldhouse USA, a state-of-the-art multi-use indoor sport facility housing the largest hardwood court surface in the country and the largest indoor turf area in Texas.

On March 13, city leaders welcomed their new public partner, Sports Village Holdings, LLC (SVH) to the 'Frisco team' during a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"It's something our city councils, past and present, have been working on for years, so it's rewarding to see the vision become reality," said Mayor Maher Maso. "We recognize the need to provide this kind of quality facility for our residents' and their families, as well as our visitors. In fact, we anticipate this facility could draw as many as three million visitors each year, which will have a major economic impact on our community."

Located at 6155 Sports Village Road on 10.5 acres, just east of the intersection of Frisco Street and All Stars Way, Fieldhouse USA is a 145,000 square foot facility which includes 12 basketball/volleyball courts; a turf field with warm-up areas for soccer, football, lacrosse and tennis; more than 5,000 square feet of retail space; a 5,000 square foot food court, complete with wireless capabilities, as well as an onsite trainer, a Dallas Mavericks team store and corporate conference rooms.

The Frisco City Council approved the development agreement in December 2007. SVH donated ten acres of land for the project and the City of Frisco invested \$12.5 million for construction costs. Any cost overruns are the responsibility of SVH. Though the City of Frisco owns the facility, SVH will manage and operate Fieldhouse USA.



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"The public private partnership operates much like our other sports ventures," said Ron Patterson, Assistant City Manager. "The City of Frisco owns Fieldhouse USA while Sports Village USA, LLC leases the facility at a rate equal to the debt service on the building."

Gary Oliver, principal in SVH and Director of Operations of Fieldhouse USA, says he and his partners, Terry Casey and Jerry Crenshaw, studied a similar facility in a neighboring community for about six years and considered building elsewhere. But Oliver says the fast growth of the city and the Frisco Independent School District, along with Frisco's visionary leaders, convinced his partners to bring their unique, sports concept to Frisco.

"Fast growing ISDs are having so many



Fieldhouse USA is a unique public/private partnership with the City of Frisco. Parts of the Fieldhouse USA Frisco Indoor Sports Center are still under construction, but many of the amenities are already being used. A March 21 basketball tournament drew dozens of teams to Frisco.



HOW TO REACH US

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Last day to register to vote in May election is April 9

Your vote does count, but your must be registered. The last day to register to vote in the City of Frisco's upcoming May general election is April 9, 2009.

On May 9, Frisco voters will elect two new council members to the Frisco City Council. Mayor Pro Tem Tony Felker and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Joy West are leaving the city council due to term limits.

Candidates Harold Covin and Bob Allen are running for Place 1. Candidates Pat Fallon, Hunt Reifschneider, Rhonda Martin and Phil Ramirez are vying for Place 3.

Early voting, by personal appearance, begins April 27 – May 5. There is not early voting on Sunday, May 3. Early voting hours are Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. On Thursday, April 30 polls will remain open an additional two hours, closing at 7 p.m. On May 4 and May 5, hours will be extended from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters may cast early ballots at:

- Frisco Fire Station #4, 4485 Cotton Gin
- Preston Ridge Campus, Collin County Community College, 9700 Wade Blvd.
- The Collin County Elections

Office, 2010 Red Bud Blvd., Suite 102, in McKinney

The General Election will be held Saturday, May 9 from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. On Election Day, voters will cast ballots at three city precinct locations:

City Precinct 1: (Denton County Precincts 117, 119, 124, 131 and 137)

Pioneer Heritage Middle School, 1649 High Shoals Drive

City Precinct 2: (Collin County Precincts 30, 92, 111)

Staley Middle School, 6927 Stadium Lane

City Precinct 3: (Collin County Precincts 87, 101, 117, 118, 127, 134

and 146)

Wester Middle School, 12293 Shepherds Hill Lane

Voters must cast ballots at their designated polling place, on Election Day only. Voters are encouraged to bring their voter registration cards. For additional information, please contact the Office of the City Secretary at (972) 292-5010 or via email at jpage@friscotexas.gov. Election information is also available on the city's website at www.frisco-texas.gov. Click on 'Government' and then 'Elections'.

FIELDHOUSE

Continued from page 1

kids come out for sports, it's challenging for school districts to hire enough coaches and teachers to keep up with all the kids who excel in athletics or just have a passion to play," said Oliver. "For example, you may have 100 kids try out for a school basketball team, but the coach can only take 30. You still have some really great athletes who didn't make the team. Fieldhouse is for all of those kids."

Oliver, whose career includes 18 years of coaching football and two Texas state 5A championships, says Fieldhouse USA is a place where "every kid" has a place to play. Cancelled games or practices due to rain or high temperatures may be a thing of the past in Frisco. Oliver boasts the controlled climate, amount and quality of space and latest technology make Fieldhouse USA the ultimate sport experience.

Basketball goals and volleyball nets can be interchanged electronically, with just a push of a button. There are 54 plasma screens throughout the facility. An

advanced scoreboard system featuring digital photography allows team names plus the players' names and numbers to be displayed in real time.

"Our scoreboard has 'stat' capture. When a kid scores, the scoreboard will show his or her number," said Oliver. "We can also send action shots right up to the scoreboard. Kids want to see themselves. That's what it's all about."

Oliver says Fieldhouse USA is league driven, but adds courts and turf are available for private rental, too. In addition, retail space is available for lease throughout the facility, which is a perfect opportunity for a business to access thousands of Fieldhouse guests.

Just weeks after opening, Fieldhouse USA is already scoring points with athletes and their fans. In its first weekend, Fieldhouse USA hosted a tournament drawing more than 60 teams and approximately 3,500 people to the facility.

"Fieldhouse USA will help transform this entire area over the next few years," said Mayor Maso. "Given its proximity to Pizza Hut Park and Frisco Square, not to mention the future development of Grand Park, the synergy being created with the development of Fieldhouse is very exciting and is helping make Frisco a destination for years to come."

MAYOR

Continued from page 1

who have reached term limits. Thus, this year we will elect two new council members which will finish a 100 percent changeover of the council.

Long-time Council members Mayor Pro Tem Tony Felker and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Joy West have both reached their term limits and will be stepping down. They both have served our community for many years and in many different ways. They have helped create the Frisco you see around you, and they will be greatly missed on Council. Please join me in thanking them for their

service now – and when their terms end in May.

There are some big shoes to fill in the May election, and it is up to you to determine who will be your council members. The decisions your council makes have a direct impact on your life, including your tax rate, public safety, infrastructure, transportation, zoning and other important issues. I encourage you to ask questions by attending 'meet the candidate' events and debates, visiting their websites, sending them questions via email or phone, or hosting debates at your HOA. Of course, the most important thing you can do is to register to vote and vote! Election day is Saturday, May 9 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Early voting begins April 27 and runs through May 5. For a com-

plete list of early voting hours, please go to our website at www.frisco-texas.gov/elections. Our website also provides you information about precinct boundaries and polling locations. For more information about voter registration, please contact our City Secretary, Jenny Page by calling 972-292-5020 or jpage@friscotexas.gov

I encourage you to get involved in our community and exercise your right to vote. Our citizens are among our greatest assets. We need your help to shape our future and continue the Frisco momentum, we call, "Progress in Motion".

**Regards,
Mayor Maher Maso**

Visit us on the Web!

Looking for detailed information about a City of Frisco service or event?

Check out friscotexas.gov, your complete guide to the city government.

Look for the latest alerts and press releases on the home page, or sign up to receive City of Frisco news to your email address.

To subscribe, go to the home page and click on 'E-News'.

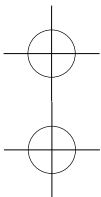
Now you can watch Frisco City Council meetings live – online.

From the home page, click on the green 'Watch' icon on the right-side menu.

From the video on the demand page select the 'Frisco City Council Meetings' icon.

On the meeting agenda page, choose the date of the council meeting you want to view.

Live city council meetings air the first and third Tuesdays of the month beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.





Frisco Police Department achieves elite accreditation award

During the March 3 Frisco City Council meeting, the Frisco Police Department was recognized for achieving a status held by only two percent of police departments in the United States. The department was awarded a Certificate of Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, known as CALEA.

CALEA was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority with the purpose of improving public safety services and recognizing professional excellence, among other standards. Police Chief Todd Renshaw

told the council that CALEA certified agencies must comply with up to 462 standards, ranging from vehicle equipment to use of force.

Frisco Police must seek reaccreditation every three years.

"The process is a collaborative effort by many in the police department," said Chief Renshaw, but he recognized Assistant Chief John Bruce, Lt. Penny Mince, Officer Lisa Clausen, and Amy Williams, accreditation manager for shepherding the department through the detailed application process.



On March 3, Mayor Maher Maso recognizes Chief Todd Renshaw, Asst. Chief John Bruce and the entire Frisco Police Department for being awarded the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement's certificate of accreditation. (From L - R: Mayor Maso, Asst. Chief Bruce, and Chief Renshaw)

Frisco launches Styrofoam recycling program

Before you throw Styrofoam packaging into the trash, check to see if you can recycle it instead. The City of Frisco now accepts some types of Styrofoam for recycling.

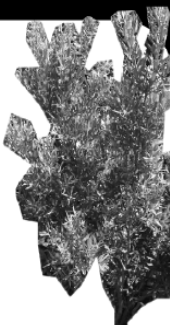
Styrofoam is still not accepted in your blue cart at home, but you can drop it off for recycling. The Environmental Collection Center now accepts Styrofoam during Household Chemical Disposal hours. Currently, those times are Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The program recycles most types of Styrofoam products such as electronics packing material. Types of Styrofoam that are not accepted at this time include packing peanuts and food containers.

If you have a question about the Styrofoam recycling program, call (972) 292-5913.

Monthly Bloom

Dwarf Wax Myrtle



Check out this month's star from the Texas Demonstration Garden, the dwarf wax myrtle. It may be the stunted 5 - 6 foot member of the wax myrtle family, but it compensates for that with its epic ability to remain green throughout the year.

Fun Plant Facts

Plant Type:	Shrub
Plant Form:	Upright
Light Required:	Full Sun, Partial Shade
Water Demand:	Medium
Plant Height (ft.):	4'
Plant Spread (ft.):	4'
Native Texas Plant:	Native
Deciduous/Evergreen:	Evergreen
Wildlife Value:	Birds
Notes:	A delightful smaller version of the tree form wax myrtle. Leaves are aromatic and berries are pale blue. Makes a nice hedge.

FRISCO Water Wise

Find many more Texas Smartscape™ native and adapted plants for your beautiful garden by visiting the City of Frisco's Public Works Demonstration Garden at 11300 Research Road or going online to www.txsmartscape.com.

City Seeking Citizen Input on Proposed Water Management Plan

On March 3, city staff presented a proposed Water Management Plan to the Frisco City Council for consideration. The proposed plan combines revisions to Frisco's existing water conservation and drought contingency plans. The currently adopted water conservation and drought contingency plans are being combined into a proposed Water Management Plan that meets all requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

All public water suppliers are required by the Texas Administrative Code to adopt or update a water conservation plan and a drought contingency plan by May 1, 2009.

The item was tabled and no action was taken during the March 3 meeting; however, council directed staff to research potential changes in the existing water fee schedule. The council is expected to take up the proposed water management plan again during one of the two scheduled April city council meetings. At this time, council and staff are asking for citizen input. Please direct any feedback to publicworks@frisco-texas.gov, or call 972-292-5800.

You can view online the presentation given by Public Works Director Gary Hartwell to the Frisco City Council. From the homepage of FriscoTexas.gov, click on the green 'Watch' icon on the ride-side menu. Select the 'Frisco city council meetings' icon on the video on demand page. Look for the March 3, 2009 council agenda, click on 'video', and then select agenda item 34.

Frisco's Environmental Services has a new address

The city's Environmental Services Division has moved locations to better serve you.

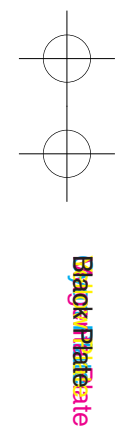
The Green Team offices are now located next door to the Environmental Collection Center. The new

address is 6616 Walnut Street. The customer service phone number is the same - (972) 292-5900.

ADOPT-A-STREET volunteer



Green Team in action: These students from Shawnee Trail Elementary volunteer to keep a section of Preston Vineyard Drive clean as part of the Adopt-a-Street program. Karen McClure, Shawnee Trail PTA Environmental Chair, and several children were recognized in front of the whole school for their good work!



Streambox® system gives bird's eye view of fire emergencies



WILL TRAMEL

FRISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. The Frisco Fire Department is using a unique approach, known as the Streambox® system, to get a bird's eye view of incidents, to really see what is happening during a structure fire or other emergency. The technology allows the capability of viewing real-time video, thermal imaging, and infrared imaging at the same time, at multiple locations.

technology actually works. The Streambox® system is a TV streaming device that allows the fire department to view real-time images through the use of a broadband Internet connection. By using a broadband connection, the cost of the system is dramatically lower than using a satellite system.

On the scene of an emergency, the driver of the heavy rescue vehicle activates a switch to raise a camera tower in the air. High above the scene, these cameras begin to transmit real-time video and infrared imaging not only to Command on scene, but also back to Central Fire Station's

Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

The images that are taken from the tower cameras go directly into the Streambox® system. The system (encoder) then has the capability of sending the images via a wireless card to another system (decoder) at the EOC. At the same time, video is routed from the Streambox® system to a digital video recorder (DVR) hard drive. This hard drive can be removed from the Special Operations Squad and taken to a computer to have the video downloaded and

See **system**, next page

Inside Central Fire Station's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), fire command as well as city managers and city department directors can view real-time streaming video from an emergency scene. The Streambox® system allows multiple city departments to efficiently work together when a quick response is critical.

How does the technology work?

Do you have a cellular telephone that can send pictures to another cellular telephone? If so, then you have a good idea how the

Frisco's Earth Day celebration - Clean It and Green It – set for Saturday, April 25

Join the Frisco Green Team for our city-wide clean up event "Clean It and Green It" on Saturday, April 25, in the IKEA parking lot, 7171 IKEA Dr. This is a program which promotes environmental awareness in our city, increases volunteerism, and helps keep Frisco beautiful.

Volunteers should check in at the IKEA parking lot from 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. The around town clean up happens from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. All participants are invited to return to IKEA for an Earth Day celebration including food, games and prizes beginning at 11:15 a.m.

There are a few ways in which you, your family, or your organization can help out:

- Participate in the actual clean up! Sign up a group or as an individual to donate your time.
- Donate items for our volunteer raffle.
- Become a sponsor and have your contribution seen by 1,000's of Frisco residents and volunteers.

HOA's, schools, and other groups are encouraged to preregister and receive equipment in advance to hold "Clean It and Green It" events in their own



neighborhoods. To sign up a group, please call (972) 292-5914 or speak with your school's Green Team.

To volunteer, you can register the day of the event or pre-register online at www.myvolunteerpage.com or call 972-292-5078.

If you are interested in donating, or becoming a sponsor for Clean It and Green It, please call 972-292-5914 or email JStarritt@FriscoTexas.gov.



Chunk Your Junk

Frisco citizens, here is your big chance to do some spring cleaning. The next "Chunk Your Junk" will be held on Saturday, April 25, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in conjunction with the "Clean It and Green It" event. The loca-

See **earth**, next page

Award-winning Web site

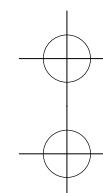


Many Frisco residents are already familiar with the great information and the easy online registration available on the city's parks and recreation Web site, FriscoFun.org. So regular users will not be surprised to learn the Web site has won a top state award. The Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) recently named FriscoFun.org as "Best Web site."

TRAPS officials say the award recognizes creativity and innovation in the development of a Web site or home page and how well it promotes the value of public recreation on the Internet.

FriscoFun.org was redesigned last summer by Frisco Parks and Recreation Marketing Coordinator, Jami Jensen, and Frisco IT Web Developer, Rickey McCoy.

Discover all the fun Frisco Parks and Recreation has waiting for you right now. Go online to FriscoFun.org to find a fitness or recreation program that's right for you.





HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

April 6

- Frisco Public Arts Board Meeting, Conference Room 5A, 6:30 p.m.

April 7

- City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m.
- Downtown Advisory Board, 5th Floor Conference Room, 12 p.m.

April 8

- Convention Visitors Bureau (CVB), TBD, 12 p.m.
- Housing Trust Fund, Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m.

April 9

- Parks and Recreation Meeting, Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m.

April 14

- Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Meeting, Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.

April 15

- Economic Development Corp. Board of Directors Meeting (EDC), 6801 Gaylord Pkwy., 6 p.m.

April 16

- Arts of Collin County (ACC), City of Allen 4 p.m.
- Community Development Corporation (CDC) Meeting, Conference Room 3A, 6:30 p.m.

April 21

- City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m.

April 22

- Urban Forestry Board, 6726 Walnut St., 6:30 p.m.

April 23

- North Texas Municipal Water District Meeting, 505 East Brown St., Wylie, TX. 4 p.m.
- Frisco Public Library Foundation Board Meeting, Library Programming Rm., 6:45 p.m.

April 27

- Frisco Neighborhood Watch General Meeting, Police Department, 7:30 p.m.

April 28

- Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Meeting, Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.
- Heritage Association, Council Chambers, 7 p.m.

'When thunder roars go indoors' during stormy weather

In North Texas, spring showers bring more than flowers. High wind, hail and pouring rain are usually part of the forecast. If you do not have one already, now is a great time to make a severe weather safety plan for your family – before spring storms whip through Frisco.

During the coming storm season, the City of Frisco wants residents to remem-

ber 'when thunder roars, go indoors.' It sounds simple, but taking cover immediately is the first, and best, thing you can do when the weather turns threatening.

Go online to FriscoFire.com to find information that will help you protect yourself and your family from severe weather. Click on 'Emergency Management' from the left-side menu and

then select 'Severe Weather'. Learn how you can stay safe during thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding. You can also read about what defines a 'watch' and a 'warning' and how to tell the difference between the two. If you have questions regarding severe weather safety, contact Frisco Central Fire Station at (972) 292-6300.

SYSTEM

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reviewed later for training purposes.

Just like your computer at home, there can be times when the service capacity reaches maximum levels. But after testing the system thoroughly, there seems to be only a few seconds delay in the video.

Where did the idea come from?

A few years ago, two employees of a local TV station participated in one of Frisco's Citizen's Fire Academy classes. Craig Harper and Kelly Moore approached the fire staff to discuss video streaming technology. Fire Chief Mack Borchardt realized this technology would be beneficial to the fire department as well as to other city departments.

As firefighters, we sometimes think we act alone; however, in instances such as hazardous material spills, building col-

lapses, and even structure fires, there are multiple city departments involved in trying to alleviate the problem. For example, what happens if a gasoline tanker has a traffic accident on a major thoroughfare in Frisco? Having real-time video transmitted to Frisco Fire's EOC could allow the traffic engineers the ability to instantly change traffic patterns away from the scene. The Public Works Department could also know which drainage tunnels were in danger of becoming contaminated.

Real-time video streaming into the EOC helps city leaders and staff to be better informed when making decisions at a moment's notice from a central location. It creates a true partnership of ideas and goals within all departments.

What's next?

This Streambox® system is currently being utilized on the Frisco Fire Department's Special Operation Squad vehicle. Chief Borchardt plans on adding it to upcoming Hazardous Materials and Command vehicles to be delivered to the



Frisco Fire Department's Special Operation Squad vehicle is equipped with a camera tower that feeds video into the Streambox® system. High above the scene, the camera begins to transmit real-time video and infrared imaging to command on scene, but also back to Central Fire Station's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

department within the next two years.

Just as the light tower was new technology to fire fighters 20 years ago, Chief Borchardt foresees real-time streaming video as the way of the future for fire departments across the nation.

EARTH

Continued from page 5

tion is also the IKEA parking lot at 7171 IKEA Dr. Vehicles will be directed to enter from westbound IKEA Drive only.

Because of time restraints, the line will be cut off at 11:30 a.m. to ensure all waiting residents are serviced. Large crowds are expected, so please come early. Chunk Your Junk is open to Frisco residents only.

- A driver's license and current water bill are required for all chemical, electronic and appliance

items dropped off. There is also a \$40 charge for all appliances and items requiring Freon extraction. That fee will be applied to your next utility bill.

A free paper shredding service will be provided. A four-box limit per household will be accepted, with sizes not to exceed 12"W x 15.5" L x 10.5" H. No commercial accounts will be accepted. Residents needing only shredding services on this day are free to park their cars in the IKEA parking lot and bring their documents directly up to the shredding truck.

In case of downpour, lightning, or other severe weather, both events will be rescheduled for May 2.

The following items can be brought for safe disposal, recycling or donation. To reduce idling time, the items are listed in the order which they can be unloaded at the event. Please load your vehicle accordingly.

Cardboard

Yard waste, limbs, and untreated wood for mulching

Metal and appliances*

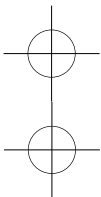
Household chemicals, paint, gasoline, oil, batteries, pesticides; computers, printers, cell phones, other e-waste

Styrofoam, plastic bags and film for recycling

Documents for shredding

Old eye glasses, clothes, furniture, books (especially children's books), etc. for donation

Fencing, other trash





Frisco residents invited to B.F. Phillips Community Park dedication

Players in Frisco's youth baseball and softball organization will have the opportunity to play on five new fields this season, with the opening and official dedication of B.F. Phillips Community Park. The public is invited to attend the park dedication ceremony on Saturday, April 4 at 10 a.m. The park dedication was originally scheduled for September, but was rescheduled due to severe weather.

B.F. Phillips Park is a 117-acre community park located at 3335 4th Army Memorial Drive adjacent to the Lonestar Ranch subdivision. With an overall ranch and horse racing theme, this park includes a five-field baseball and softball complex, soccer fields, a playground system, concession and restroom facilities and a paved parking lot.

As part of the city's City of Frisco Public Art Program, the turnaround entrance features an oversized horse shoe and nail. The steel artwork is entitled "For Want of a Horseshoe Nail".

Construction of Phase II of this community park will take place later this year with additional phases following over the next



"For Want of a Horseshoe Nail" by Howard Meehan is part of the City of Frisco Public Art Program and marks the entrance to B.F. Phillips Community Park, located at 3335 4th Army Memorial Dr.

five years. Phase II of the park will include additional playground equipment and concessions built near the soccer fields, and additional parking.

For more information about B.F. Phillips Community Park and all our city parks please visit our website at FriscoFun.org/parks or call 972-292-6500.



B.F. Phillips Community Park features five new fields that will be used for the first time this spring by Frisco's youth baseball and softball organizations. The park's dedication ceremony is set for Saturday, April 4 at 10 a.m.

New ESL collection offers English language learners exciting opportunities

JUDY PEDERSEN

ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Expanded ESL (English as a Second Language) resources are now available at your Frisco Public Library. Audio, video and written formats are conveniently located in the new ESL section on the fourth floor of the library. Patrons learning English—or interested in enhancing their skills—will find tools for learning both written and oral English, including some that are tailored for a specific native language.

Materials introducing informal conversation and American idioms ("slang") are part of the

ESL collection. Basic books on a variety of topics are included, so new readers can practice their skills immediately. Information relating to citizenship, American history and other practical topics is also available.

Teaching materials have been included. So those assisting ESL learners will find useful resources for helping students learn English.

Frisco Public Library is excited about offering expanded ESL service. We welcome your comments as we continue to add to this collection and as we continue to serve our diverse community. Visit the 'Ask Us Desk' on the fourth floor for more information and help with ESL materials.

Contest to showcase young Frisco baseball and softball players' skills

Batter up! The 2009 Aquafina Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit and Run contest is right around the corner. Boys and girls ages seven to 14 are invited to come out and show off their baseball skills in this free, local competition. Participants will be showcasing their abilities in the areas of pitching, hitting and running.

The event will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at B.F. Phillips Community Park located at 3335 4th Army Memorial Dr. (Field No. 3). Competitors will compete in one of four age groups: 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, and 13-14 years. To participate in an age group, the child must be in that age range as of July 17, 2009. Participants should bring their birth certificate

for proof of age.

The top competitors will advance through four levels of competition including local and sectional competitions, team championship events at all 30 major league ballparks and the national finals at the MLB All-Star Game. Registration is not required.

The Frisco Parks & Recreation Department is hosting the event in conjunction with Frisco Baseball and Softball Associations opening season festivities. For more information, please call 972-292-6508 or email SDunn@FriscoTexas.gov.

In case of bad weather the day of the event, call our Special Events hotline at 972-292-6520 for up-to-date information.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS

Here are just a few of the activities going on in April at the Senior Center at Frisco Square, located at 6670 Moore St. For the complete list of April activities go online to www.FriscoFun.org/seniors and select 'newsletter' from the left-side menu. For more information about the Senior Center, or how to become a member, call 972-292-6550.

TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

9 A.M. — NOON

ENTRY FEE: \$5

Whether you are a novice or an experienced player, we welcome you to come out and play in the Senior Center's Table Tennis Tournament. A draw system to pair players will be used and each team will play 3 out of 5 games to 11 points. Prizes will be given to the top three winners. Registration ends on Thursday, April 2.

SPRING FLING DANCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

6:30 P.M. — 9 P.M.

\$4 ADVANCE TICKET/\$6 DAY OF EVENT

Escort your honey and friends down to the center for another wonderful Western dance. Enjoy the live, southern sounds of Borderline Band. Coffee, tea and a light refreshment buffet of fruits, cheeses and veggies will be provided. So whether you two step, line dance, or just want to sit and listen to the great country rhythms, there is a spot for you in our spacious dance hall. If you would like to see more dances here, we must prove them successful first, so buy your ticket today!

SENIOR EMPLOYMENT SOURCE

Wednesday, April 29

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Senior Sources' Employment Specialist, Renae Perry, will discuss interviewing and how to put your best foot forward. You will learn about current interviewing strategies and tips for succeeding in the interview and securing the job. Sign up by Monday, April 27, if you plan to attend.

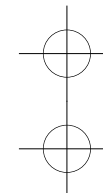
One more chance for a slice of Philanthropizza

Frisco Public Library has partnered with California Pizza Kitchen to provide the opportunity to practice 'philanthropizza' on April 16, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Frisco California Pizza Kitchen restaurant.

Enjoying a meal at the California Pizza Kitchen at Stonebriar Centre (next to Barnes and Noble) on April 16 will benefit the Frisco Public Library. The FPL will receive a donation equal to 20 percent of your tab. All you need to do is present a philanthropizza flyer to your server when you order your meal.

Stop by the library and pick up copies of the philanthropizza flyer for yourself and your friends. The philanthropizza events in February and March were a success. We need help making the final night for philanthropizza – April 16 – a hit, too. The Frisco Public Library will thank you, and so will your taste buds.

For more information about the philanthropizza event and how to participate, contact the Frisco Public Library at 972-292-5669, or visit www.friscolibrary.com.



Black Plate



GET READY TO DIVE IN!

Grab your swimsuit and sunscreen. The Frisco Athletic Center's outdoor pool area will open for the summer season on Saturday, May 25. Look for details about opening day in the May edition of Focal Point.

COMING NEXT MONTH



NOW SHOWING... Sunday Movie Matinees at Frisco Heritage Museum

As you step back in time to learn more about Frisco's history, you can also enjoy a movie the old-fashioned way. The Frisco Heritage Museum, located at 6455 Page St., now offers a Sunday Movie Matinee series. The museum is running family-friendly classic movies at 2 p.m. every Sunday featuring westerns, comedies, and silent films.

The cost is included in the price of admission to the museum. Family admission is \$8. Tickets for adults and children 12 and older are \$4 each. Tickets for children aged five to 11 are \$2, and admission is free for children four and younger.

Go online to FriscoMuseum.com to see what other programs and services the Frisco Heritage Museum has to offer.

March 29

"Young Bill Hickok"

Starring: Roy Rogers

Run Time: 54 minutes, 1940

April 5

"My Favorite Brunette"

Starring: Bob Hope

Run Time: 87 minutes, 1947

April 12

"Arizona Days"

Starring: Tex Ritter

Run Time: 57 minutes, 1937

April 19

"The Lost World"

Starring: Wallace Beery

Run Time: 100 minutes, 1925

April 26

"Jack and the Bean Stalk"

Starring: Abbott & Costello

Run Time: 70 minutes, 1952

Rockin' the Park '09

Collin County Songwriters Association

Spring Concert & Seminars

This FREE event will feature a cover band and songwriters of all styles and ages from the North Texas region.

Saturday, April 18 - 5:00 p.m.

Warren Sports Complex - 7599 Eldorado Parkway

The show will be preceded by a showcase of seminars and a networking session in the park's hilltop pavilion for those who want to get into the local music scene and learn more about the Indie music industry. For more information call 972-841-0226.



**Sponsored by: Frisco Parks & Recreation
and Anderson Guitar Gallery**

